

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 02598 271551Z

67

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 RSR-01 NIC-01 /127 W

----- 073323

R 271526Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8365

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 2598

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, WA

SUBJ: NAMIBIA: SAG BARS PRESS FROM OWAMBO

REF: PRETORIA 2568

1. COMMISSIONER GENERAL FOR SWA, JANNIE DE WET, ANNOUNCED JULY 26 THAT PRESS, WITH EXCEPTION OF SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION (SAPA), WOULD IN FUTURE BE BARRED FROM OWAMBO, WHERE TENSE POLITICAL SITUATION ON EVE OF HOMELAND ELECTIONS THREATENS TO BECOME VIOLENT. THIS OBVIOUSLY WILL MAKE IT EASY FOR SAG TO MANAGE NEWS COVERAGE OF EVENTS IN OWAMBO, INCLUDING AUGUST 1-2 ELECTIONS.

2. MEANWHILE, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SWA, BISHOP LEONARD AUALA, HAS CHARGED THAT SAG HAD BROKEN PROMISE TO ALLOW FREE ELECTIONS. HE SAID

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PEOPLE OF OWAMBO HAD NO REAL CHOICE BEFORE THEM. AUALA

ADDED THAT OFFICIAL ACTIONS HAD LED DIRECTLY TO REVIVAL OF
SOUTH WEST AFRICA PEOPLES ORGANIZATION (SWAPO) AND EMERGENCE
OF RADICALS AMONG THE YOUTH; EVEN CHILDREN OF 10 OR 12
WERE SHOUTING "NAMIBIA" WHEN POLICE VEHICLES CAME INTO VIEW.

3. COMMENT: ACTIONS TO BAR PRESS FROM OWAMBO REFLECTS SAG'S
NERVOUSNESS ABOUT DETERIORATING SITUATION IN OWAMBO.
HURD

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NNN

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